



MOUNTAIN MAPLE *Acer spicatum* Lam.



Mountain maple occurs throughout Maine and is especially common in the northern part of the state. It grows as a small bushy tree, seldom over 30 feet in height. At times, the tree forms fairly dense thickets, due to its habit of growing in clumps. It grows best in a wet habitat or on damp, northern slopes. The slender twigs grow in a somewhat upright position.

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Facing page, far left: Mountain maple leaves have deeply impressed veins on the upper surface.



The **bark** is reddish-brown to gray, thin and somewhat furrowed.

The **leaves** are opposite, three-lobed, shiny above, somewhat hairy below. They have rather coarse teeth and prominently sunken veins on the upper surface.

The **flowers** appear in June in long, hairy, yellow-green clusters after the leaves are full grown.

The **fruit** is paired, with wings

slightly divergent, and occurs in ascending clusters. It has a wrinkled depression on the seed body and ripens in early fall.

The **twigs** are hairy, green, red or reddish-brown, not striped; and the pith is brown. The buds are hairy, valve-like, green, and only slightly stalked, slender and pointed.

The **wood** is close-grained, soft, light and not used commercially.

